rist Act is put in force and the whole of Tripura should be declared a disturbed a distrubed area. All these guerrilla suspects are being released on bail because the court can do nothing about it. I request the Home Minister to prevail upon the Chief Minister of Tripura to declare the whole areas as disturbed and to put into force the Anti-Terrorist Act so that the guerrillas may be dealt with properly and the lives of innocent citizens of India may be protected.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam ....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No Member will make a speech. The Members will only say: "I associate myself". There should be no speech Otherwise this will go on

SHRI P N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Madam, I want to associate myself with the Special Mention.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, I want to associate myself.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI (Assam) Madam, I want to associate mlself.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Madam, I want to associate myself.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): Madam, I disassociate myself with the Special Mention

श्री बेकल उत्साही : (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मै श्री कमलेन्दु भट्टाचार्य जी के विशेष उल्लेख का समर्थन करता हूं।

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : मै भी अपने आपको इस विशेष उल्लेख से सम्बद्ध करता हूं ।

श्री शकील अहमद सिद्दीकी (दिल्ली): मै भी इस विशेष उल्लेख का समर्थन करता हूं ।

श्री नरेश पी० पुगलिया (महाराष्ट्र) : मै कमलेन्दु भट्टाचार्य द्वारा दिये गये विशेष उल्लेख का समर्थन करता हूं ।

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): I want to associate myself with this Special Mention by suggesting just one sentence.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have not allowed you to speak I have allowed the other Members to associate their names. I have not allowed them to say a word on that.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA. Have these Members asked your permission to associate their names?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If some Member requests to associate his name, we don't allow him to make a speech. He just says he associates himself. That is all. We don't allow him to make any speech.

Latest Developments in Sri Lanka

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, I draw the attention of the House to a very serious matter of curbing the basic rights and prerogatives of the Members of Parliament. This current session commenced on 6th November. Every Thursday, there are questions relating to the Ministry of External Affairs But no question relating to Sri Lanka has been admitted in the Starred List so far. (*Interruptions*) .....*

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record Your Special Mention is regarding the latest developments in Sri Lanka. You mention only what the development is

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: This is the Special Mention.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, you mention that only

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: No This has been given by the Secretariat itself This is the letter to the Chairman in which I have made a request about this question and also to make a submission on this matter. Along with Mr. Advani, we went to meet the Chairman and the Chairman

*Not recorded.

[Shri V. Gopalsamy]
also accepted that I could make the submission. Both the things have been clubbed together .. (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, it is not proper to allow him. .(*Interruptions*)... Why are you raising this issue?

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You please listen ..(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please listen, Mr Gopalsamy

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY: He is challenging the proceedings of the House, Madam...(*Interruptions*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, listen, please...(*Interruptions*)... Please listen . (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V GOPALSAMY: I have written a letter.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You cannot raise that in the House... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It has been clubbed together. .(*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN You cannot raise it in the House. On whatever you mentioned to the Chairman, the Chairman said that he would look into it

SHRI V GOPALSAMY: Yes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not allowed to raise it. Only the latest development you can mention . (*Interruptions*) . You wanted to mention it

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: This has been deliberately done.. (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If you are not doing it, then I am not allowing you ..(*Interruptions*).. If you are not doing it, I am not allowing you. Please mention only the latest development.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Parliament is kept in total darkness. What is happening in Sri Lanka, we are not aware of The Government has not come out with any statement to Parliament. When more than 35,000 soldiers are engaged in a war on a foreign soil, spending more than three crores of rupees a day for the past 59 days, till this minute the Government has not come out with a proper explanation after the resumption of the operations on the 24th November. Madam, at the same time, we are reading the news given by the Sri Lankan President. I would like to quote from "The Hindu" of 3rd December This is the version of the President of Sri Lanka:

> "The strength of the IPKF in the Island, now esimated at 30,000 to 35,000, would be increased, if necessary."

Again, Madam, Mr. Lalith Athulathmudali, the blood-thirsty Internal Security Minister of Sri Lanka has said—I am quoting from "The Hindustan Times" of 2nd December—like this:

> "The Sri Lankan forces have shown great professional skill even after the peace accord and, today, their advice is sought by the Indian forces on how to control terrorists "

The news items further says:

> "Mr Lalith Athulathmudali said that it was a supreme irony that the IPKF that was sent to protect the population of Jaffna was now under severe criticism by the people of Jaffna Peninsula for their alleged killing of civilians and destruction of property."

Madam, today, the whole of Jaffna Peninsula has been made into a Nazi concentration camp by the genocidal attack by the Indian army...(*Interruptions*).. and our....

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: This is absolutely false. (*Interruptions*) .. This is absolutely false.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: ...mothers and sisters, our own kith and kin, are subjected to unbearable, unimaginable and unpardonable horrors of the genocidal attack by the Indian army ...(*Interrruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, he is stating that the Indian army is committing genocide there... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI T. R. BALU (Tamil Nadu): Yes, they are doing it...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, it is a shame on his part to say that the Indian army is committing genocide there...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, in a recent Press meeting...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are not to make a speech. I just wanted to remind you that your time is already up.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Madam, in a recent Press meeting, a very important person of the Government made a statement...(*Interruptions*) ...talking to Pressmen and journalists that they are going to be ruthless to finish the LTTE...(*Interruptions*) The statement was made by none other than the Prime
1.00 P.M. Minister of this country. But I would like to warn this Government that no army however mighty, can destroy or wipe out a strongly motivated force which is committed for the liberation, which is committed for the freedom struggle .(*Time bell rings*) Madam when the whole Tamil race is crying, the whole race is weeping and wailing, it is most painful and shocking that India is inviting the President of Sri Lanka to attend the Republic Day Parade as the Chief Guest. Madam, our hearts are on flames and you are pouring petrol over it, because this Government, headed by Mr Rajiv Gandhi, is becoming a pawn in the hands of the racist regime and ... (*Time Bell rings*)... mercenary, he has become too unpaid in the hands of Jayewardene Madam, if he is invited as Chief Guest, it will be a day of shame and sorrow. Therefore, I am concluding with a request to this Government, through you, to order a unilateral ceasefire stop genocide and come with a statement to the Parliament, otherwise this Govt. will not be for given.

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : (बिहार) : मै श्री गोपालसामी जी के स्पेशल मेंशन का, जोरदार समर्थन करता हू । वहां पर जेनोसाइड बन्द करना चाहिये, इसकी मैं मांग करता हूं . . . (व्यवधान)

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. M. S. Gurupadaswamy. One minute only. You will only associate. Please be brief.

SHRI P. N. SUKUL (Uttar Pradesh): Is he associating? (*Interruptions*) You said 'No speeches'.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: They have already given their names to the Chairman, and the Chairman on the spur of the moment decided to allow them if they wanted to associate. Therefore, I have called him.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA (Andhra Pradesh): Advance planning! (*Interruptions*).

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Not more than one minute, Mr. Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: (Karnataka): Madam Deputy Chairman, when the Indian army is engaged in a conflict in a foreign land...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): One minute. I have to make a submission. Madam, we have already spent a lot of time on other business. Government business is very much suffering So I request that if we can sit during the lunch hour also today—Mr. Poojari is here for giving the reply also...(*Interruptions*).

SOME HON. MEMBERS: No, no.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Madam, Deputy Chairman, I was just saying that when the Indian army is engaged in a conflict in a foreign territory, it is expected of the Government to give periodic reports to Parliament in regard to the operations the army has conducted. So far, not even one sentence report by the Government of India has been placed before the House. We are not at all discussing this matter during the entire session.

SHRI JAGESH DESAI (Maharashtra): Once we did it.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY: Only when the Prime Minister made a statement on his tour, about the SAARC and the rest of it, there was a mention.

Madam, I think we have entered into a great military misadventure, if I may call it so. The Government had earlier taken the position that Tamil issue in Sri Lanka is to be settled politically. Unfortunately, the political issue has now gone into the background. I do not know where it rests today. Now, the Indian Army, PKF, in the name of peace keeping is involved in a conflict against our own blood brothers. In the beginning the Government said that it would be only for one week. Now, it has gone on and on for nearly 8 weeks. I do not know when it is going to end. Therefore, the Government should tell us when they are going to disengage themselves, when the Indian Army is going to disengage and when the political process will start. I am interested in the political process. That alone can solve the ethnic problem Therefore, Madam I would like to know the Government's latest position on this, whether they are thinking of the political settlement even now, whether they have forgotten it and whether even now they will call a Round-Table Conference of all the Tamil groups particularly the LTTE and discuss the whole matter in order to bring about a solution. Otherwise, military operation may further escalate and we may have to be engaged in it for a long time. We may have to pay a heavy price as a nation. We may alineate the sympathies of all the ethnic groups there including the Sinhalese. Therefore, I would like the Government of India to come and make a comprehensive statement, take the House into confidence and tell us what measures they are going to take to end this issue. In the meantime, I would like to know whether they are going to stop this conflict.

SARDAR JAGJIT SINGH AURORA (Punjab): Madam Deputy Chairman, I support my hon. colleague, Shri Gopalsamy's request for up-to date information about the situation in Sri Lanka and the conduct of Peace Keeping Force. I wonder if some of us have read an article in India Today of 15—30 of November. It gives the impression that there is going to be a dramatic change in the country's foreign policy, especially with regard to Sri Lanka and other SAARC countries. Do we really want to be the big brother and create our own Monroe Doctrine? At the same time, we have 30,000 troops deployed in Sri Lanka. We must be informed about their performance and achievements. An assessment of the achievements so far and the likely duration it will take to complete the task should be made known. We would also like to know how the Government proposes to resolve the misunderstanding about the command and control of the Peace Keeping Force. Unfortunately, there has already been a controversy in the press about it. Lastly, I agree that eventually this problem has to be solved politically Therefore, the Government should tell us how they propose to do it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you for being very brief.

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA: Madam Deputy Chairman, we are getting bogged down day by day in the Sri Lankan situation and ca-

qualities on both sides are also on the increase. From the reports we get, the number of officers killed there is unprecedented. In any war, the proportion of officers killed in comparison with Jawans killed has never been so high as in this operation. So, it is very necessary that we should find an immediate solution to this The cost of operation is also very high. The cost of Rs. 3 crores which was mentioned is only the direct cost. There are so many other expenses also which are involved including the cost of relief which we are giving to the population there And I am told that sometimes even the food for officers is being flown from Madras from a 5-star hotel I do not know how far it is correct. Therefore, a political solution is very necessary and the Prime Minister and the Government should not stand on false prestige that simply because the LTTE did not agree to the accord and the terms of the agreement we will see the end of them and then only we will start talking That is not a correct approach. Therefore, we want the Government to find an immediate political solution to this matter. And I also add my voice to Mr. Gopalsamy's protest that in this crucial hour, to invite President Jayewardene as the chief guest on a National Day is not advisable Really some of the actions of this Government and the Prime Minister are very peculiar and cynical. At a time when there is an adverse public opinion in this country about the role of President Jayewardene and his attitude towards the people of Indian origin there and when he is a controversial figure, to invite him for a National Day is completely unwarranted and inadvisable He can always come on a State visit He was here on a State visit recently He can come for discussions If necessary our Prime Minister can go there for discussions, of course, with enough security arrangements. But to invite the President of Sri Lanka at this time for a National Day is completely inadvisable. If we can withdraw the invitation probably it will be honourable for both. Thank you.

DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): He will be the costliest guest if he comes here.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Madhya Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I am of the view that the Government of India's Sri Lanka policy has landed the country in a mess. I do not know how we extricate ourselves from it. But the sooner we are able to do, the better it would be for the country, for the prestige of the country, for the interest of the country and for the interest of the Tamils whose interest in Sri Lanka we sought to promote through our policy. I do strongly feel that this accord should have been between the Tamil representatives in Sri Lanka and the Sri Lankan Government, and we should not have been a party to the accord. The content of the accord is something which is desirable, but it is our being a party to it which has been responsible for the present situation. And it is really surprising that when we have sent our troops there in such a large number and we are engaged in a serious action there, this Parliament has been in session for five weeks now and there is no periodic report before the Parliament which should have been there. And it is through a Special Mention that this matter has come up today I can understand and appreciate the emotional feelings of my colleagues here, but I would urge them to refrain from making any comments which cast an aspersion on the Armed Forces there because it is not the Armed Forces which are at fault. If we can find fault, we find fault with the Government and the political leaders and their political policy and not with the Armed Forces in Sri Lanka And therefore, even while making our point, we should be very scrupulous

[Shri Lal K. Advani]

in confining our remarks to the actions of the Government.

And I would like to make one more point because my name was mentioned in that context. I want to make it simply clear that I am not making any comment on any one except that I represented to the Chairman that it is the Government's prerogative to say that we cannot give an answer to this question in public interest, but a question should be allowed or disallowed on the basis of the specific rules given in the Rule Book. It cannot be at the outset, at the threshould that the question can be disallowed on that ground. This was the submission which I made to the Chairman and the Chairman appreciated it and, therefore, permitted Shri Gopalsamy to make his observations.

Thank you.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Madam Deputy Chairman, I would like to emphasise on this point that it is the Government's duty to keep the Parliament informed of what is happening in Sri Lanka. In Sri Lanka serious developments are taking place and conflicting reports are available through the press. It is very difficult to understand the implications of those developments through the press, interested press reports. Therefore, I emphasise that the Government should make a statement regarding the latest developments in Sri Lanka and also make it clear whether the reported presence of Israelis and other imperialist forces and their intrigues is still continuing there That also further complicates the issue. Therefore, I demand that the Government should come out with a comprehensive report regarding the latest developments in Sri Lanka and the steps that the Government proposes to take to resolve the situation and diffuse the situation.

Thank you, Madam.

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार): उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय सदस्य श्री गोपालसामी ने भारतीय सेना के सम्बन्ध में जो लाञ्छन भरे शब्द कहे हैं, उससे मैं बिल्कुल सहमत नही हूं । मैं यह चाहता हूं कि श्रीलंका की स्थिति के बारे में सरकार अविलम्ब सदन को और देश को अवगत कराए । यह इसलिए भी जरूरी है क्योंकि अब जब हम इतनी कीमत चुका रहे है और लड़ाई बढ़ती चली जा रही है, समझ में नही आता रहा है कि हम किधर जा रहे है तो उस स्थिति में सरकार की ओर से स्पष्टीकरण निहायत जरूरी है । क्योंकि श्रीलंका के कई मंत्रियो ने इजराइल के बारे में या वाइस आफ अमेरिका के बारे में जो बयान दिए है वह श्रीलका एकार्ड के बिल्कुल विपरीत हैं । इसलिए हम जानना चाहेंगे कि क्या हो रहा है और वहां पर कैसी स्थिति है ?

दूसरी बात अखबारो में यह भी आया है कि श्रीलका के साथ हमारी एक दोस्ताना ट्रीटी होने जा रही है । यह अच्छी बात है कि हमारी अपने पडोसी देशो के साथ मित्रता की ट्रीटी हो जाये । और हम इसको पसन्द करेंगे । कि हमारे जितने भी पडोसी है, उनके साथ हमारी मित्रता की एक ट्रीटी हो जाये, दोस्ताना संबंध हो जायें । हम यह भी चाहेंगे कि हमारी सरकार इस प्रयास मे सफल हो । लेकिन क्या हो रहा है यह हम बूझे भी नही और एक अनडिक्लेयर्ड वार में हम फस जायें । तो हमारा पार्लियामेंट में रहने का कोई अर्थ ही नही होगा। इसलिए हम चाहेंगे कि इस विषय पर सरकार स्पष्टीकरण दे । इस सदन की बैठक समाप्त होने तक अपना स्टेटमेंट दे । हमने जब सीज फायर किया तो हमको उम्मीद थी कि एल० टी० टी० ई० के लोग रिस्पांड करेंगे । तो क्या बात है कहां पर कमी रह गई है । इस सदन को विश्वास में लिया जाये । प्रधान मंत्री इस बात को हम लोगो के समक्ष रखें ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Murasoli Maran will associate only. His name will be associated only. And also that of Mr. Dipen Ghosh. We will now take up the National Housing Bank Bill, 1987.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN (Tamil Nadu): Why? I want to speak. Give me one minute only.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You gave your name to the Chairman just now.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: You just see the time on it. I gave it long back. I also did advance planning.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, you did not do that. It was only halfway planning. Yes, Mr. Minister, the National Housing Bank Bill, 1987.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Madam,....

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your name also will be associated.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It is not a question of associating.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Then what is the question? (Interruptions) If you want to speak, you have not given your name. (*Interruptions*). You see, I cannot apply one rule to you and one rule to them. If I apply one rule to them, I am applying the same rule to you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I am not going to say that you favour me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Exactly.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: I do not want to associate myself with the words which Mr. Gopalsamy mentioned, but I say...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Just listen.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It will not go on record. I am not listening because I have not allowed you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: *

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not forcing also.

*Not recorded.

चतुरानन जी आप अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि जब हमने एक नियम बनाया है।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : यह एक राजनीतिक मसला है । इसमें तो लार्जेस्ट . . . . (व्यवधान)

उपसभापति ने कहा कि आप एसोसिएट कर लीजिए । मैंने कहा नियम के नाम पर समय के नाम पर नहीं बल्कि इसलिए कि यह नियम है।

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: We do not have a formal leader of the opposition; but for all practical purposes, he is there.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Just look at the time I sent my name. I have not given it now only.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know what you are going to raise. I allow Mr. Dipen Ghosh. Your party man has already spoken.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: It is not on a party basis at all.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But you had not given your name. Please sit down.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I have given my name sufficiently in advance.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You know the rules. If you want, I will quote the rules.

Yes, Mr. Dipen Ghosh.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam Deputy Chairman, even though I do not agree with everything that Mr. Gopalsamy had stated while making this mention, but I want to put on record that as the situation obtains today in Sri Lanka, our Parliament is entitled to know what is happening there, what is the latest position there and how the Government of India proposes to tackle the situation there. The session is going to end from 11th of this month, and only three days are left. Afterwards, the Parliament will meet again only in February and there will e almost a two months' gap. So, before the session adjourns, I would appeal to the Government, through you, to make a statement, detailing how the situation stands

[Shri Dipen Ghosh]

today and what are the proposals before the Government to tackle this situation, and allow Members of Parliament to seek clarifications and have a discussion on it. This is our right to know. This is the right of the Members of Parliament in India to know, because the Government of India is involved there. So, I hope, the Government of India would please accord that right to know of the Members of Parliament Thank you.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I am grateful to you. Madam, what is going on in Sri Lanka is an undeclared war, without any mission, without serving any national interest. It is going on.

Hon Mishraji and Mr Advani said that we should not find fault with the army and we have only to accuse the Government who have sent the army there I agree with them. But what is happening there is like the Vietnam situation. Guerilla warfare is going on. You know what happened in Vietnam. In My. Lai 200 innocent people including women and children had been killed by the army, and the General of that American army, one Kailly was court-martialled. That army officer was sentenced to life imprisonment.

LTTE have sent two petitions about the atrocities being committed by the Indian army. I am not finding fault with the entire army. But here, it is not a patriotic war. They do not know what for they are there. So, atrocities are committed here and there. Two petitions have been received by the U.N Secretariat from Mr. Prabhakaran and I would request the Government . .

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Is it gospel truth? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: When major parts of the country are reeling under drought, we are spending crores and crores of rupees there. Perhaps, the hon Finance Minister may have to increase his deficit or levy another surcharge under these circumstances. We, the hon. Members of Parliament, are kept in dark. There is censorship and even our right to put questions is being curtailed, as explained by Mr. Gopalsamy.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Prime Minister. Let him come to the House and say what is going on. Should we not know if there is an undeclared war? If there is a war, should we not know what is going on and what are the casualties? People are talking according to their imagination One newspaper has said that whereas during the Chinese aggression, the casualty ratio between officers and jawans was 1 : 10, in Sri Lanka, the ratio is 1 : 11 Such a high rate of casualty was not there in the previous wars Such grave things are happening. The House should know. The people should know Under these circumstances, I would advocate along with my colleagues, the best way would be to order a ceasefire and arrange for. .

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: What has been the response of the LTTE to the earlier ceasefire?

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: I do not want to go into that. It was an immature act It was done without any planning. I suggest that the Government should declare a permanent ceasefire and hold talks with these people If you do away with the LTTE, what will happen? There will be a vacuum. With whom you will negotiate? The Prime Minister is standing on false prestige He wants the head of Prabhakaran. He should be, on the other hand magnanimous, put an end to the war and initiate talks. This is the only way. Otherwise, there will be a permanent and irreparable damage to relationship between the Sri Lankan Tamils and India

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Poojari to reply to the debate on the National Housing Bank Bill.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Madam, may I make a submission? I would like to know whether the hon. Minister who laid down the notification and present

here will reply today in regard to the excise notification. It is reported that State Textile Minister Shri Mirdhaji has also not consulted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. I am not allowing. Mr. Poojari please.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Why can't we adjourn now for lunch? The Minister can start his reply after lunch.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No.

SHRI M M JACOB: Madam, I suggest that the Minister should be allowed to complete his reply and then we can adjourn for lunch.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister will require half-an-hour. We can adjourn for lunch at 2 p.m.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We should adjourn for lunch. We have certain things to attend to.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: It is better that we adjourn now so that there will be continuity in the Minister's speech if he starts the reply after lunch.

SHRI M. M. JACOB: Madam, I submitted earlier that the Minister should be allowed to complete his reply before lunch I want your ruling on this.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If the House agrees, of course.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: We do not agree. Yesterday, we sat up to 9.30 p m We did not mind.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. We adjourn now and meet again at 2.30 p.m.

The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-eight minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock, **The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai)** in the Chair.

THE NATIONAL HOUSING BANK BILL, 1987—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members who have taken part in these deliberations and contributed valuable suggestions. I will fail in my duty if I do not mention about the valuable suggestions made by some of the hon. Members. Particularly, I have to refer to Mr. R. R. Sahu, Shri Jagesh Desai, Shri Ghulam Rasool Matto, Shri Lakshmanna, Shri Rameshwar Thakur, Shri V. M. Kushnoor, Shri Nirmal Chatterjee and others.

At the outset, I would like to submit that housing is a basic necessity next only to food and clothing. Sir, the hon. Members from this side and also from the opposite have expressed their concern about this burning problem. In fact there is a unanimous demand for giving national priority to the weaker sections. Here I express my gratitude to the hon. Members for standing, irrespective of party affiliation, as one and making out the point that we have to look after the weaker sections and also to solve the housing problem, we must have a comprehensive national housing policy. A comprehensive National Housing Policy is being prepared and finalised in which priority would be given to houseless scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and the slum area people for giving housing facilities to them. It is true that at the beginning of the Plan, the Seventh Plan document places the shortage at 24.7 million units, out of which 18.8 million units are in the rural areas and 5.9 million units in urban areas. Taking into account the increase in population between 1985 and 1990, the shortage would be, it is estimated 40 9 million units during this period, out of which the country should have 31.2 million units in the rural areas and in the urban areas; the country requires 9.7 million units. As I have stated, if we provide housing then it will improve the quality of life of our people, particularly the weaker sections and it will serve to fulfil the fundamental objectives of the Plan It will increase and also generate employment and also provide for savings.